

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
DISTRICT I**

May 1, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th

Members Present

Council Member Rogers
Kenneth Hemmen
David Franks
Lori Lawrence*
Debby Moore
Sharon Myers
Marcia Traylor
Lois Tully-Gerber
Billy Wilson

Guest List

Jeffery Andres, Wichita Police Department
Sarah Gilbert, Career Development Center
John Gist, Planning Director, WSU, 1845 Fairmount
Wanda Givens, 3015 E 21st Street
Officer C. I. Hullum, 3015 E 21st Street
Officer E. S. Landon, 3015 E 21st Street
Felicia Rolfe, Channel 12
Officer Searing, 3015 E 21st Street

Members Absent

Carl Brewer
Patrice Dolenz
Carrie Jones
Edith Knox*
Rev. Lincoln Montgomery*
Steve Roberts*
Willard Walker*
Ken Woodard*
Dee Wright

*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council Member Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Rogers moved that the minutes from the April 17, 2000, be approved (**Gerber**). Minutes were approved with the noted corrections: **Dee Wilson**, should be listed as **Dee Wright**. **Sharon Myers** was listed as an alternate, but should be listed as a Board Member.

Approval of Agenda

Having no additions or changes, **Council Member Rogers** moved for approval of the May 1, 2000 agenda (**Hemmen**).

Public Agenda

John Gist, Director of Planning at Wichita State University, 1845 N Fairmount, made a statement that Wichita State University would be able to deal with any Alternative the District Advisory Board elected. **Gist** also mentioned that he had met with several members of the University staff, including Vice-President Roger Lowe; Finance; President Donald Beggs; and Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC). **Gist** said that he had been able to review the maps for the and four I-135 construction alternatives that PEC and KDOT were proposing.

Gist stated that he knows that WSU traffic does come from all areas of Wichita. However, **Gist** did want DAB members to know that most of the University's West-side commuters currently take I –135. While construction on I-135 would inconvenience those commuters, **Gist** felt that the minimum inconvenience would be positive and worthwhile. **Gist** stated that he saw merits in Alternative I. **Gist** again stated that the University would live with which ever recommendation the Board made.

Unfinished Business

1. **Recommendations on Reconstruction of I-135, 17th to 37th Street**

On April 17, 2000, District Advisory Board members heard comments from business owners regarding the impact that the 21st Street closure may have on businesses located on 21st Street. PEC staff was on hand to provide clarity as to which parts of 21st Street would be closed with each alternative.

Council Member Rogers turned the meeting over to **Moore**, second pro-tem. **Moore** asked the Board if any additional comments regarding this issue. **Franks** responded by stating that he did not approve of Alternative IV because it was not feasible; he preferred Alternative I.

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Moore stated that the Board needed to focus on what the preferred alternative was, rather than what each did not want. Therefore, **Moore**, polled Board members, and asked who was in favor of each Alternative.

By a show of hands, Board members **Hemmen, Tulley-Gerber, Traylor and Moore** chose Alternative I.

No Board member was in favor of Alternative II.

Dolenz was in favor of Alternative III.

Myers was in favor of Alternative IV.

Traylor made the comment that since all Board Members were in favor of Alternative I, she would recommend that if Alternative I were approved by the City Council, that the provide adequate signage and alternative route signs in order to assist businesses along 21st street.

(It should be noted that the members polled were the only DAB members present at that time.)

Tully –Gerber (Traylor) moved that District I District Advisory Board recommends Alternative I in the I-135 construction project and recommend that adequate signage be posted along the roads. The motion passed unanimously.

Hemmen commented that the proposal stated 9 months, which translated into 155 working days. Averaged out, 155 working days equaled about sixteen working days per month. **Hemmen** stated that unless weather conditions were unbearable (raining), that he could see the possibility of construction being completed ahead of schedule.

Moore made a formal recommendation of Alternative I to **Council Member Rogers**.

Council Member Rogers thanked the Board Members for their recommendation and stated that he would work on getting all of the appropriate signage in an effort to lessen the impact of inconvenience to all citizens.

New Business

2. CSBG Appointment Recommendations

Federal grant administration policy requires that a committee of private citizens participate in the dispersion of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. **Sarah Gilbert** will be briefing DAB members on requirements.

Sarah Gilbert, *Career Development*, and explained that a new board structure was being implemented for the CSBG funds. **Gilbert** stated CSBG funds are federal monies received from the City. CSBG funds are federally regulated and go through the State before they are distributed to the City. Therefore, there are also State mandates for CSBG disbursement. CSBG monies are currently: 1) used to improve the quality of life in low income areas; 2) Spent at the direction of the City Council; and 3) To maintain (Utilities, staffing, etc.) Mini-City Hall sites at Atwater, Colvin, Evergreen and Stanley/Alley.

Duties of the two appointed Board members will include: 1) Meeting about four times per year; about once per quarter; 2) Serve as an advisory board to the City Council; 3) To review process/reports; 4) To make recommendations, if necessary, for adjustments in the process, reporting, disbursement of funding; and 5) Advise on the economic development, or framework of how the funds are disbursed, not to use funds as handouts.

Low-income Representatives will be voted on through an election/ballot process.

Gilbert gave another example of how CSBG money is currently being used to fund *Project Access*, a program that provides free medical care to low income citizens. CSBG funds also assist in covering prescription medication for people that participate in the *Project Access* program.

Gilbert restated her name and gave her phone number, 337-9444, at the *Career Development* in the event DAB members had any additional questions regarding CSBG.

Tully-Gerber requested **Gilbert** have the formal requirements sent to the Neighborhood Assistant so that the description may be sent to DAB members with the minutes. **Gilbert** mentioned that the requirements still needed to go before the state and once approved at that level she would provide the DAB with the information. **Gilbert** then asked that the DAB notify her of their appointments within the next week.

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Council Member Rogers reminded DAB members that two members, **Moore** and **Jones** had expressed interest in serving on this committee at the last meeting.

Franks (Traylor) moved that **Moore** and **Jones** serve as District I appointees to the CSBG Board. The motion passed unopposed.

Board Agenda

No items were submitted.

Items for Discussion

Moore had some concerns that stemmed from the Neighborhood Bus Tour that she attended. **Moore** stated that residents in the area were concerned that the area had been re-zoned as commercial. **Council Member Rogers** assured **Moore** that the area she toured had not been re-zoned, and would not be rezoned to a commercial district. **Council Member Rogers** went on to say that currently the area that has been designated as commercial is from Washington to Ohio and from 18th Street to 19th Street; he was not aware of the neighborhood's concern. **Moore** expressed concern that there were a number of boarded-up, abandon homes that were abutting and adjacent to the businesses in the area. **Moore** wondered if the City would be able to help the residents relocate.

Council Member Rogers stated that a home owner is not required to maintain residency of the property. All the home owner has to do is pay the property taxes, which are already reduce d. If citizens want to have the City take more action on these types of abandoned homes, they need to put more pressure on legislators to change state laws because currently the laws in place limit what city government can do with these kinds of vacant and acquired properties.

Traylor, who had also been present on the bus tour, mentioned that the neighborhood has a concern regarding vandalism in area. The residents perceive police response to be slower in their neighborhood. **Traylor** proposed that the DAB gather statistical information regarding police response, in addition to the crime so that it may be presented to that Neighborhood Association during the next DAB meeting.

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Council Member Rogers commended **Traylor** for her suggestion and recommended that **Traylor** meet with the Neighborhood Assistant to gather the necessary data and invite the Sunflower Neighborhood Association to the next DAB meeting so that they may have their concerns addressed. **Council Member Rogers** suggested that citizens take responsibility for their neighborhood by reporting people committing the crimes, especially if they know who is committing the crime.

Myers wanted to notify the DAB members of an issue that may come before the Board in the near future. The issue is regarding the request of a through road by the *Sycamore Village Home Owner's Association*. The issue stemmed from Mainsgate Home Owner's Association receipt of a letter from *Public Works* (**Myers** is unsure of the signature on this correspondence). The letter was an inquiry of ownership on property at 21st Street and Bainbridge. The access road was requested to help ease the Rock Road congestion and give the Home Owner's of *Sycamore Village and Comotara* an alternative route/access in to their communities.

The Board of the *Mainsgate Association* held a meeting with Steve Lackey, Public Works and invited *Sycamore Village Home Owner' Association and Comotara Home Owner's Association*. When *Mainsgate* Board members realized that an access road is different from a through road, their apprehensions were eased. *Mainsgate Home Owner's Association* will be distributing the proposal of the access road to area Home Owner's in their upcoming newsletter to determine the community's support of the project. Once level of support is determined, the issue may come before the DAB. Removal of speed bumps on Bainbridge may also surface. Some resident would like to have bumps removed.

Adjourn

Having no further business, **Council Member Rogers** adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.